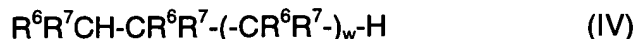


## IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (cancelled).
2. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein component A is a sulfonate of the formula (I) where at least one of all the  $R^2$  radicals present is  $-\text{SO}_3^\ominus\text{M}^\oplus$ .
3. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein component A is a sulfonate of the formula (IV)

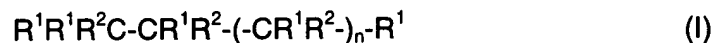


where  $w$  is from 1 to 3, one of the  $R^6$  radicals is an unsubstituted phenyl radical and all the other  $R^6$  radicals are hydrogen, and one of the  $R^7$  radicals is  $-\text{SO}_3^\ominus\text{M}^\oplus$  and all the other  $R^7$  radicals are hydrogen.

4. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein component A is sodium cumenesulfonate or potassium cumenesulfonate.
5. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein component A is a dihydric or trihydric alcohol of 4 to 8 carbon atoms.
6. (cancelled).
7. (currently amended): A process according to claim 8, wherein the composition includes, per 100 parts by weight of water (component D): the following amounts of components A, B, C, E, F:  
  
5 to 35 parts by weight of component A,  
10 to 40 parts by weight of component B,  
3 to 30 parts by weight of component C,  
0 to 30 parts by weight of component E, and  
0 to 20 parts by weight of component F.

8. (currently amended): A process for the pretreatment of fiber materials in the form of ~~textile sheets, wovens or knits~~, said process being performed prior to manufacture of enduse articles from ~~the sheets said materials~~, which comprises treating the fiber materials with a composition including at least the components A, B, C and D,

where component A is either a sulfonate of the formula (I)



where n is from 0 to 8, each  $R^1$  is independently of the others hydrogen, an alkyl radical of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted phenyl radical or a phenyl radical substituted by a radical of the formula  $-SO_3^{\ominus}M^{\oplus}$ , and each  $R^2$  is independently of the others  $R^1$  or a radical of the formula  $-SO_3^{\ominus}M^{\oplus}$ , subject to the proviso that component A contains at least one radical of the formula  $-SO_3^{\ominus}M^{\oplus}$  and M is Na, K or  $NH_4$ ,

or where component A is a polyhydric aliphatic alcohol of 2 to 12 carbon atoms,

component B is an ethoxylated alcohol of the formula (II) or a mixture of such alcohols



where r is from 1 to 8,

component C is an alkoxyate of the formula (III) or a mixture of such alkoxyates



where t is from 4 to 30, 20 to 80% of all the Z groups present are  $-CH_2CH_2-O-$  and 80 to 20% of all the Z groups present are  $-CHR^4-CHR^5-O-$ , where in each case one of  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  is hydrogen and the other is  $CH_3$ ,  $R^3$  in both component B and component C is a linear or branched alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms and 50 to 100% of all the X's present are hydrogen and 0 to 50% of all the X's present are a methyl, ethyl or phenyl radical,

and component D is water,

and optionally also a component E and/or a component F or a mixture thereof,  
component E being a magnesium salt or a calcium salt and component F being an alkali metal salt or ammonium salt of a sulfuric monoester of the formula (V)



where  $R^8$  is a linear or branched alkyl radical of 4 to 12 carbon atoms,

~~whereby good primary wettability without unacceptable foaming and good rewettability are imparted to the pretreated textile fiber materials.~~

9. (original): A process according to claim 8, wherein the fiber materials are 70 to 100% by weight cotton.

10. (cancelled).

11. (cancelled).

12. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, which is carried out prior to a dyeing step.

13. (previously presented): A process according to claim 8, wherein the composition includes, per 100 parts by weight of water (component D), the following amounts of components A, B, C, E, F:

10 to 25 parts by weight of component A,  
15 to 35 parts by weight of component B,  
5 to 25 parts by weight of component C,  
2 to 20 parts by weight of component E, and  
2 to 10 parts by weight of component F.